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Dean Steven P. Frankino

Sandra Schultz Newman

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DEAN STEVEN P. FRANKINO

HON. JUSTICE SANDRA SCHULTZ NEWMAN*

I will always remember Dean Steven Frankino as a great professor, as an engaging colleague, a dear friend and one of the warmest and most wonderful people that I have had the good fortune to know. He was spectacular as a husband, father, grandfather, colleague, mentor and friend. Over time, I came to know Rosemarie and the rest of the family, and witnessed his devotion to all of them. Regardless of the tremendous demands he faced as a fully engaged dean and academic, he always made time for his family, students, colleagues and friends. He will always be remembered for keeping his humility despite his lofty position, and the status he enjoyed as a true intellectual.

My first experience with Steve was having him as a professor in International Law. He was exciting and brilliant in educating the class in this area of law. So exciting that if I were not married with a family, I would have chosen this specialty in law. I understood, however, as he demonstrated by example, that family must come first.

Steve was a man of tremendous intellect and an epochal figure in jurisprudence as well as at the Villanova University School of Law. As dean of the school, he blazed a path into and through the information age. He was renowned for his skill and intensity in education, as a professor for his gifted insight and ability to convey knowledge uniquely and as an individual for his joyful embrace of life and fervent friendship. His reverence for the legal profession encouraged all he taught to reach for the highest standards and to remember the historical traditions of our discipline.

When I heard that Dean Frankino was ill, my thought was that he would beat the terrible disease that had stricken him. He was a "fighter" par excellence and had won in some tough battles with other illnesses. Unfortunately, that sad battle ended, and my dear friend Steve had passed. My own dearly loved husband was critically ill at the time, but I still intended to make Steve's funeral. Just as life had been taken from Steve, my husband died the day before Steve's funeral. Regrettably, I was not at his funeral to say one last goodbye, so I am grateful to write this tribute to this most remarkable man.

Steve was one in a million. Despite his many accomplishments, and the depth and breadth of his knowledge and skills, ego was never part of Steve's being, or a driving force in his life's work.

* Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. B.S., Drexel University; M.A., Temple University; J.D., Villanova University.

Dean Frankino will live on in our hearts and minds, and in our many accomplishments, which he fostered by his leadership and stewardship. That will insure that his memory will be with us forever.

Rest in peace my dear Steve with my beloved Jules . . . watch over us and bless us . . . indeed bless all of us and our children and their children, and let us all say "AMEN."